

A B S T R A C T

A fuel blend for use in an internal combustion engine is provided. The fuel blend comprises a hydrocarbon-containing fuel component and an oxygen-containing component capable of providing a portion of the oxygen needed for combustion of the fuel component under conditions prevailing during the combustion cycle of the internal combustion engine. The major oxygen-providing agent of the oxygen-containing component is one or more compounds having the general formula (I) $R_2 - O - (CO) - R_1$, wherein R_1 is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups, R_2 is selected from lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups, or a group having the general formula (II) $R_3 - (CO) - O - R_4 -$ wherein R_3 is selected from lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups, and R_4 is selected from lower alkyl. The blend may additionally comprise one or more of a stabilizer, a biocide and a substituted alcohol. Fuel additives comprising a combination of compounds having the general formula (I) are also provided. The additives may be used as oxygenating additives in the formulation of fuels, such as gasoline and diesel.